



AARON AND ROSE DANIELS

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Daniels was also a trapper and had a tiny cabin on Daniels Creek, at a point about where Boomer Flat rises from the creek, where he stayed when he was trapping.

In later years this article was published in a newspaper sent in from Fort Duchesne, Utah, on June 19.

A woman 97 years old, a full-blooded Navajo Indian, who was stolen from the Whiteriver Utes when she was six years old, and later was sold to a man who later married her, still enjoys long rides daily on her horse. She is shown above (her picture) still hale and hearty.

The girl never could endure life among the Indians after she had been away. Each time she was returned later to the tribe, she ran away. When the Indians became tired of hunting her up and hauling her back to camp, they finally sold her to Aaron Daniels, the man who gave his name to Daniels Canyon and Creek.

Daniels became the guardian of the girl and married her when she was 18 years old. Captain Pardon Dodds, acting Indian agent, officiated at the ceremony, which was held at Blue Mountain, north of Vernal, Utah.

This was 79 years ago. The couple moved to the Uintah Indian Reservation, where

866

DANIEL BIOGRAPHIES

Mrs. Daniels was given an allotment of 160 acres of land by the government. They made their home here and became the parents of four children.

Mrs. Daniels has kept the farm and carried on since the death of her husband. When at home, away from her horse, she listens to the radio. She saddles her own horse, is very alert of mind and spry of body, and although her skin shows her age, she is still straight and sturdy. She has many grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

*Trapper in
Daniel Canyon*

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From the descriptions of the journey left by Fathers Francisco An-tanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante, the group is believed to have traveled along the Strawberry, through Diamond Fork into Spanish Fork Canyon and then to the shores of Utah Lake.

Between this visit in the summer of 1776 and the beginnings of settlements in 1858 only hunters and trappers frequented the area in search of beaver and mink. Often they followed the trails and foot-paths worn into the earth by Indians.

The settlers who moved into Wasatch County and claimed its land were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their settlements near the Great Salt Lake, as well as subsequent colonizing efforts in outlying areas, were not chance events.

Persecution and misunderstanding had forced members of the Church to leave their homes and community life in Nauvoo, Ill., the place which the saints called their "City Beautiful." Through the vision and leadership of President Brigham Young, the pioneering members of the Church trudged thousands of weary miles from Illinois, across the plains states, and into the Rocky Mountains. The first company entered the Salt Lake valley on July 24, 1847.

In the mountain country, which they named the Territory of Deseret, the industrious pioneers turned water onto the parched, desert soil and fruitful fields resulted. Timber and stone were taken from the surrounding hills to erect homes and church buildings. An active commerce grew up that made the area the literal crossroads of the west.

As the central settlement of Salt Lake City became established, President Young encouraged the saints to colonize the outlying areas of the Territory. The new settlements strengthened the territory, broadened the influence of the Church and opened up new farmlands for the thousands of Saints who were arriving in the area each month.

During the first decade of colonizing, President Young called settlers to move into southern and northern parts of the territory. Major settlements were established in St. George in the south, Manti and Provo in the central area and Logan and Cache Valley in the north.

In the Provo area, settlers began moving in about 1849. The city grew until about 1857 when some of the townspeople felt that all the choice land had been claimed. Newly arrived settlers began looking toward "greener pastures" on the other side of the Wasatch Mountains.

One summer Sunday morning in 1857 a group of workmen at a sawmill in Big Cottonwood Canyon, southeast of the Salt Lake Valley, decided to spend the day looking at the rumored "paradise land" nestled in the tops of the Wasatch range. The men, Charles N. Carroll, George Jacques, James Adams and others, hiked to the summit of the range and brought back glowing reports of a desirable agricultural valley.

Rumors still existed that there was frost in the valley during every month of the year. However, the favorable reports of the sawmill workers, and others, made many people anxious to settle in the area. Thus

it was that during the Spring of 1858 a group of cattlemen in Provo drove a herd of stock through the canyon and established some ranches at the south end of the valley. Those in the group included William Wall, George W. Dean, Aaron Daniels and a few others. With an eye toward keeping their cattle in the valley during the winter these men harvested a large crop of meadow hay.

During the Spring and Summer of 1858 a number of persons explored the area and decided it would be a satisfactory place to settle.

The first steps toward settlement came in July, 1858, when a party headed by J. W. Snow, county surveyor in Provo, went to the valley and laid out a section of ground just north of the present site of Heber City. Twenty-acre tracts were surveyed and each man in the party selected his farm.

Having decided to settle in the valley, the men turned their attention to the feasibility of constructing a road through Provo Canyon. As early as 1852, an explorer, William Gardner, had recommended that such a road be constructed. Then in 1855 the Territorial Legislature enacted a measure empowering Aaron Johnson, Thomas S. Williams, Evan M. Green and William Wall to construct a road from the mouth of Provo Canyon in Utah County to the Kamas prairie. From there it was to travel northeasterly on the most feasible route until it intercepted the main traveled road from the United States to Great Salt Lake, near Black Fork in Green River county.

Unfortunately, this road was never begun. Misunderstandings with federal officials resulted in the appointment of Alfred Cumming as the territorial governor in 1857. He was escorted into the Utah territory by federal troops commanded by Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. The presence of federal troops gave the Mormon people more to think about than building the road.

By mid-1858, however, the troops were peacefully garrisoned at Camp Floyd near Utah Lake and the Mormon people had returned to normal living.

With cattle grazing on the Wasatch lands, and with ranch sites already surveyed, the need for a road again became an issue of primary importance. To win support for the project, a group of Provo men took the matter to President Brigham Young and explained both the hardships and the advantages of building such a road. The Church President favored the project and called a meeting in the bowery at Provo on June 6, 1858. He said at that time:

"A road up Provo Canyon is much needed, and we want ten or twenty companies of laborers to go on it forthwith in order to finish it in about fifteen days so that you can go into the valleys of the Weber where there is plenty of timber.

"I understand that a company has been chartered by the legislative assembly to make that road. If those men will come forward we will take the responsibility of making it. We shall need about 500 laborers."

of pork. They also enjoyed venison if a deer came in sight. Among the workmen, "Uncle Billy" Bethers became almost a legend. His hands shook very badly, but he was a crack shot. When deer would come in sight he would pick up a rifle, and while his companions would wonder if he could ever keep the weapon still long enough to shoot, he would aim at his prey and always get it. Tradition has it that he never missed.

Eight hour days were unknown to the canal workmen, and they labored from dawn to dusk, and then spent the evenings around camp



The official homestead papers for William S. Bethers who was the first white man to establish a permanent home in the Daniel area. The document bears the signature of President Chester A. Arthur and is dated November 15, 1881.

fires spinning tall tales and workmen's fears. All their wages were in stock in the irrigation company.

Part of the canal route required a 1,000 foot tunnel through the hills into McGuire Canyon. George Munn took the contract to drive the tunnel, and sub-let the work to James and Andrew Lindsay. One started from the east end and the other from the west. When they met, the west end was a foot higher, which caused many problems. During Spring run-offs silt would settle at this point and cause the water to back up. Cave-ins were also a problem in the tunnel, and usually dangerous to clear out.

Three difficult years of sacrifice and labor were required to build the three-mile Strawberry Canal, but by 1889 it was delivering some 33 second-feet of water into the Daniel area. More than \$5,000 had been

expended in bringing this water into the valley. However, those who engineered the feat looked with pride at the first irrigation water brought across mountain ranges from the Colorado watershed into Wasatch County. In later years skilled surveyors who looked over the canal said that even though Mr. Duke and his associates had used crude equipment, the canal was one of the best surveyed mountain ditches ever built.

Another canal, the seven-mile-long Willow Creek Canal, was finished in 1891 at a cost of about \$15,000. Then in 1922 the Strawberry, Willow Creek and Daniels Canyon canals were incorporated into the Daniel Irrigation Company.

The canals served well for many years with only minor repairs and rebuilding. However, by 1947 it was getting difficult to keep the ditches open, so the Daniel Irrigation Company proposed expenditures of more than \$7,000 to put in cement pipe through the tunnel, which has virtually eliminated problems there. The \$7,000 was raised by assessment in two years.

In 1953 the Daniel company combined the Strawberry and Willow Creek canals, put a new dam in the river and eliminated sections of the canal that traveled through steep ledges by putting the water through a siphon under Strawberry River from one hillside to the other. Cost of these improvements was some \$54,500, partly financed by a \$31,000 loan from the Utah Water and Power Board.

Because of this water, fine hay, alfalfa, peas and other crops have been raised on the rich bench ground in the Daniel area.

From the beginning, the people of Daniel depended upon irrigation waters to help in their struggle for the necessities of life. The cooperative irrigation projects also helped cement the early settlers into solid community life. Food from the earth was not easily won, and bread literally came by the sweat of their brows. They worked hard together, and to balance their lives they turned to community socials and to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A combination meeting house and school building was among the first permanent buildings to be erected in the area.

Daniel is located about four miles south of Heber, and was known to white men as early as 1858. The first white man to establish a permanent home in the area was William Samuel Bethers, a native of Illinois, who had come west with the Church. He established a homestead at the mouth of Daniels Canyon in March, 1874, and built a log house for his family. This modest dwelling, with only a dirt floor and dirt roof, was the first of three homes that he built for his wife, Phoebe McMillan Bethers, and their 14 children.

Others began homesteading in the area and by 1885 there were sufficient persons to organize a branch of the Center Creek Ward. Joseph Jacobs was named as the first presiding elder and served until a ward was organized in 1898.



William Madison Wall, for whom Wallsburg was named, and his five wives, Nancy, Emma, Elizabeth, Sarah and Sarah.

ever, he warned them that the first one to break in would be killed. No one volunteered to be first.

The next morning, as he left the hotel, Elder Wall was surrounded by a mob brandishing ropes and threatening to "string him up." He felt almost as if his time to die had come, and asked to speak a few last words. He said in his journal, later:

"I had one little wish to impress upon their minds, and that was that some of them had to die in the operation and I did not wish to kill any man that had a drop of honest blood in him; if there were any such men I begged them to withdraw and let the worst hounds they had remain to do the deed, as I should certainly kill three or four."

Apparently all in the mob felt honest for Elder Wall went free.

Returning to Provo, he was appointed marshal of Provo and then sheriff of Utah County.

His tenure as sheriff was often bullet-punctuated since the friction between Mormons and anti-Mormons was high, and federal troops commanded by General Johnston were also stationed in Utah County.

The Deseret News of Jan. 6, 1859, noted briefly that "last Friday

evening when W. M. Wall, Marshal of Provo, was walking through the streets of that city a ball was shot through his hat and grazed his head and knocked him down."

Wall was also one of the most skillful Indian negotiators among the Mormons and frequently served assignments for President Brigham Young in pacifying the Indians. Many of his dealings with the Indians are discussed in detail in Chapter 7.

"Provo" Valley was discovered early in the 1850's by three men who climbed the Wasatch Range from Big Cottonwood canyon and descended the western slopes of the valley. Their report created much interest and ways were immediately sought to get into the valley. By 1855 or '56 the pioneers began taking their cattle in via an Indian trail that began near Pleasant Grove, in Spring Creek over the north-west end of Timpanogos down Bear Canyon in the left fork of American Fork canyon, up the canyon to the summit and thence down into the Midway area.

On the 19th of January 1855 the State Legislature incorporated the Provo Canyon Road Co. which authorized Aaron Johnson, Thomas S. Williams, Evan M. Green and William Wall to build a road up Provo Canyon. Very little was done at this time, however. In June of 1856 William M. Wall was called on a mission to serve in Australia. He returned late in 1857, having been called home because of the Johnston's Army affair. Early in 1858, he and others began talking about the "road" again and on June 3, 1858 Brigham Young called a meeting at Provo, organized a new Company and work was started immediately. The road was to go from Provo through Provo Canyon to the Kansas Bench and thence on to the "Mormon Trail" in Weber Canyon. \$19,000.00 was allocated for the cost of the road, much of which was paid for in "Deseret Script."

A large bridge in Provo Canyon was completed about the 13th of October and by the 11th of Nov. 1858 the road was near enough completed for "100 teams" started for the United States over the new road." (Deseret News, Nov. 12, 1858).

The first group of settlers to go into the valley over the new road were George Washington Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and William Wall. The Beans and Walls settled near the neck of the canyon in the south end of the valley, where they had established their headquarters during the construction of the road. Daniels and Meeks went further north.

George Washington Bean, a surveyor and Indian interpreter, had with his brother, James, been very active in getting the new road built. George W. Bean was the first to take up ground in Round Valley and in the fall of 1860 he sold his holdings in Provo Valley to his father-in-law, William M. Wall, so he could spend his entire efforts improving his holdings in Round Valley. He mentions in his writings about having to go by way of Salt Lake City and Park City to get to their ranch because of the floods of 1862. By 1864 he was no longer in Round Valley.